(b) Whenever required, the Government takes up the matter with the concerned foreign Governments at appropriate levels. Steps taken by the Government with regard to incidents involving Indian students in Australia is given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to the Statement to SQ No. 15 Pt (a) to (c)]

Passports for Haj pilgrims

37. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Haj pilgrims for the year 2009 are facing a lot of difficulties in getting Passports for the purpose; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to mitigate the hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Government of India is aware that in accordance with the decision of the Saudi Government all Haj pilgrims will have to travel on International Passport for Haj-2009 onwards.

(b) All Passport Offices have been instructed that the Haj passports should be handed over to the Haj pilgrims/Haj Committee within the due dates stipulated by the Committee to ensure that no Hajis face any difficulty in undertaking the sacred journey.

Results of talks in Russian summit

†38. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that concrete talks have taken place among Brazil, Russia, China and India during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Russia;

(b) the terms of reference of the said meeting; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. Prime Minister attended the Summit of the leaders of BRIC [Brazil, Russia, India and China] countries in Russia on 16 June, 2009.

(b) The Summit reviewed the current state of global economic and financial crisis and discussed the forthcoming G8 and G20 Summits.

(c) The Leaders agreed that BRIC Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors would meet and examine the further steps to be taken to intensify cooperation in the BRIC format on economic matters, to seek implementation of decisions of G-20 Summits which are of interest to developing countries and reform of present structures of international financial system and global governance. The Summit adopted Joint Statement of BRIC Leaders and Joint Statement on Global Food Security.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.